

CLAIM LISTING

The following claim listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for storing and opening encased articles, comprising:

 a container configured to store at least one removable article encased within a protective seal;

 a seal cutting apparatus, in combination with said container, comprising:
 a receiving channel defined, at least partially, by an edge of a
substantially planar first surface[[edge]] spaced apart from a substantially
parallel second edgeplanar second surface;

 a cutting member including a cutting edge, said cutting member positioned so said cutting edge extends betweentoward said first [[edge]]surface [[and]] from said second [[edge]]surface;

 wherein said receiving channel is configured to slideably receive at least a portion of said seal and said cutting edge is configured to cooperatively cut said seal portion as [[it]] said seal portion is inserted into and translated along said channel,

 wherein cutting said [[cut]] seal portion facilitates access to said article, and wherein said cutting apparatus is fastened to said container.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said first [[edge]]surface defines a slideable abutment structure and said second [[edge]]surface defines a backstop.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein said backstop includes a seating compartment which receives and seats said cutting member.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said cutting member is stabilized and bound by a securing member.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein said cutting edge projects away from said backstop and extends into a relief nick integral to said slideable abutment structure.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of providing and opening encased articles, comprising:

providing receiving a combination container and seal cutting apparatus; inserting receiving a plurality of articles into in said container, wherein said articles are encased within individual protective seals; distributing said container with articles and seal cutting apparatus to an end user; removing a first article from said container; inserting at least a portion of said first article's protective seal into said seal cutting apparatus; operating said seal cutting apparatus by slideably translating said first article past at least a portion of said seal cutting apparatus to cut said portion of seal; and, retrieving said article from said protective seal wherein said cutting apparatus is fastened to said container.

8. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the first surface is substantially perpendicular to the second surface.

9. (New) The system of claim 5, wherein the cutting edge extends into a relief nick integral to said slideable abutment structure.

10. (New) A seal-cutting apparatus comprising:
 - a receiving channel, the channel being at least partially defined by an edge of a substantially planar first surface and a substantially planar second surface, wherein the first surface is substantially perpendicular to the second surface; and
 - a cutting member located at the second surface and extending toward the first surface; wherein
 - the seal-cutting apparatus is configured to at least partially sever a package seal of a package when the package is translated through the receiving channel and at least partially past the cutting member; and
 - the seal-cutting apparatus is configured to be coupled to a package.

11. (New) The seal-cutting apparatus of claim 10, wherein the package comprises a blister package.

12. (New) The seal-cutting apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first surface is configured to slideably engage at least one blister of a blister package.

13. (New) The seal-cutting apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second surface is configured to slideably engage a seal portion of a blister package.

14. (New) The seal-cutting apparatus of claim 13, wherein the receiving channel is configured to allow insertion of at least one edge of a blister package.

15. (New) The seal-cutting apparatus of claim 14, wherein, when a blister package is engaged with the first and second surfaces and translated through the receiving channel, at least a portion of the package seal is at least partially severed by the cutting member.

16. (New) The seal-cutting apparatus of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of said cutting member projects away from said second surface and extends into a relief nick formed at the first surface.